

Providence  
Road  
church of  
Christ

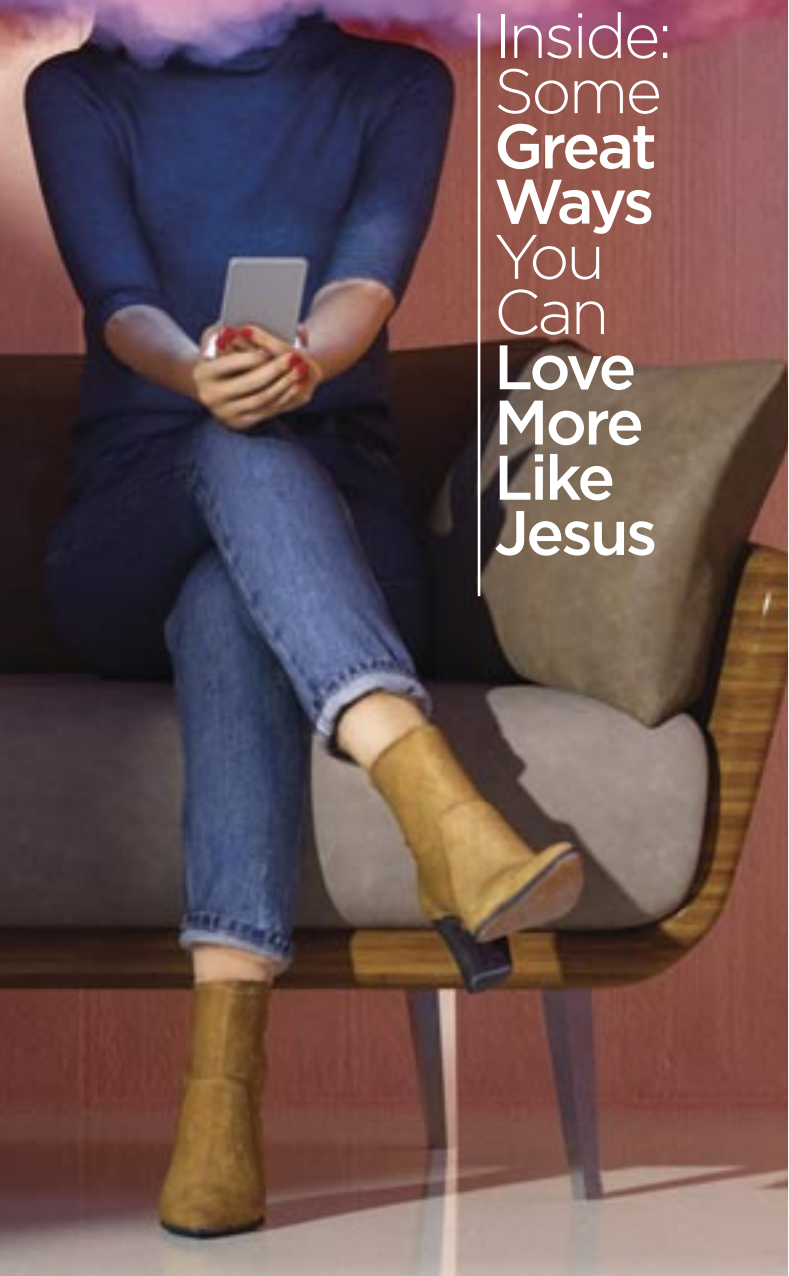


PR+community

# Where's Your Head?

More  
Importantly  
Where's  
Your  
Heart?

Inside:  
Some  
**Great  
Ways**  
You  
Can  
**Love  
More  
Like  
Jesus**







# fearlessly following Jesus

When

getting out

of the boat

**keep**

**your eyes**

**on**

**Jesus.**

There is

**no fear**

in love...

perfect love

drives out

fear.

1 JOHN 4:18A

Providence  
Road  
church of  
**Christ**



[prcoc.org](http://prcoc.org)





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I was hungry and you fed me,

I was thirsty and you gave me a drink,

I was homeless and you gave me a room,

I was shivering and you gave me clothes,

I was sick and you stopped to visit,

I was in prison and you came to me.

Whenever you did one  
of these things to someone  
overlooked or ignored...  
**you did it to  
me**

Jesus in  
Matthew 25:36,40  
the Message



Helpful Overview

# Getting Started

As a church, we want to follow Jesus by seeking to build relationships as we do life. In keeping with that goal, we've intentionally sought out local organizations with which we can work and serve, limiting our 'hand-out only' interactions.

Whenever possible, we want to make a lasting impact on each individual/family being helped, as each of us at PR is impacted by being the hands, feet and voice of Jesus.

STRATEGIC INTENT

We want to be intentional as we reach into our community to make God's love known by His presence through our involvement and service.

We are seeking to express Jesus' humility, patience mercy and love.

We also want to be used by God to expand His kingdom. Our Community Care Partners are offering us the opportunity to build meaningful relationships with the ones they are serving, as well as with members of their staffs.

The generous access we are being afforded allows for abundant opportunities to share God's good news.

GOALS FOR SUCCESS

It's our goal to effectively communicate with the church leaders, members and each of our community partners. If you are unclear and need more information, please reach out via email: [communitycare@prcoc.org](mailto:communitycare@prcoc.org)

We will be working to keep the balance between immediate needs and our long-term impact with those being served.

We will be providing the coaching needed by those who volunteer, to ensure that all of our interactions are sensitive to and respectful of those being served.

We expect and will be looking for the skills and talents in those we are serving, so they can contribute to our interactions.

It is our desire and hope that new members at PR will quickly become involved with one or more of these relationship-focused opportunities for community service, modeling Christ in their lives.

If you are new at PR and want to learn more or become involved, please reach out via email: [communitycare@prcoc.org](mailto:communitycare@prcoc.org)

Remember: It's always best, whenever possible, to work in pairs or small groups when serving.

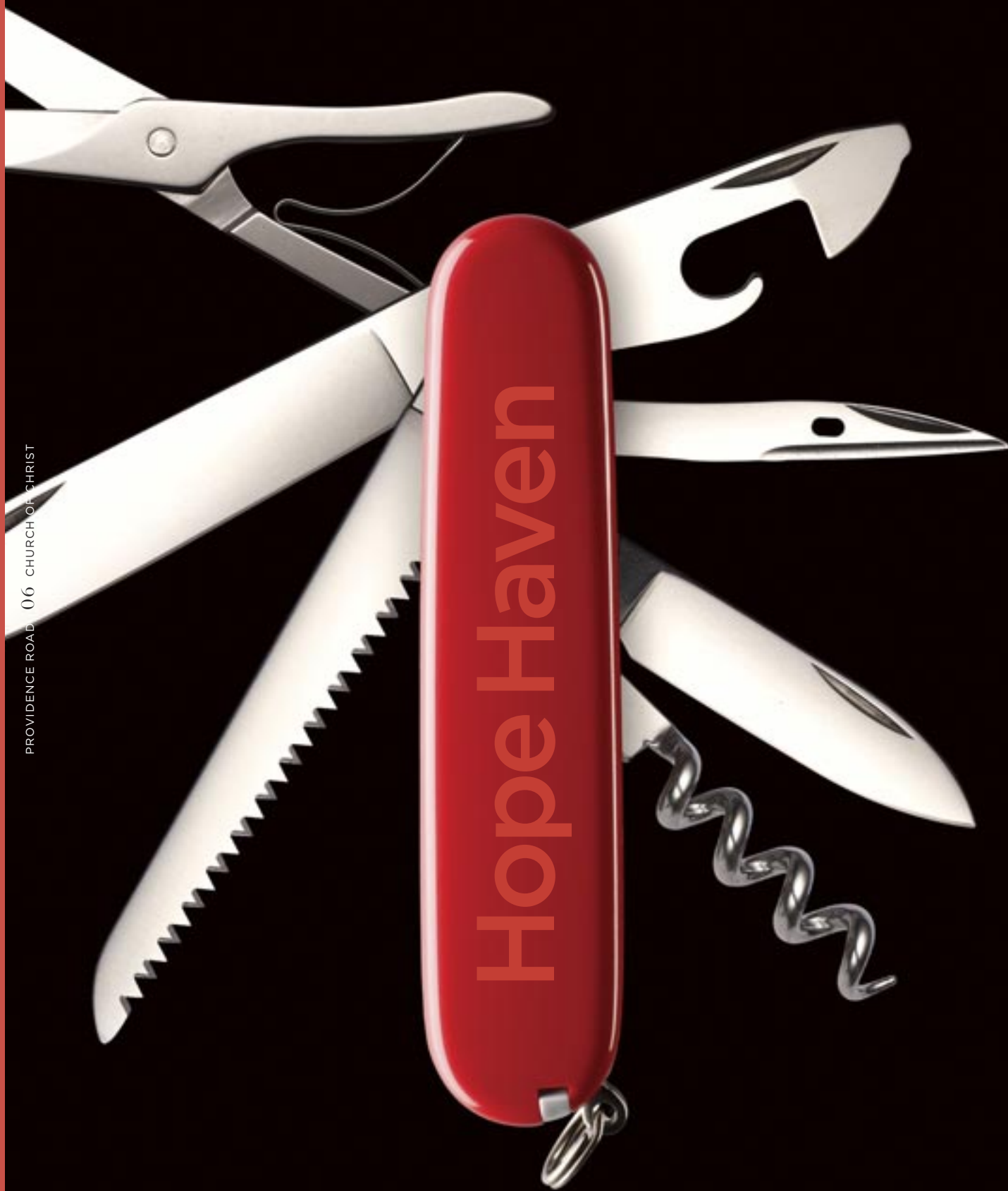
To serve others we must be mindful to put the real interests and needs of those being served above our own self-interests. (Philippians 2:3-5+)

Such **confidence...** is ours through Christ Jesus. Not that we are competent in ourselves to claim anything for ourselves, but **our competence comes from God.** He has made us competent as ministers of a new covenant...

Paul the apostle  
2 Corinthians 3:4-6a

&pray





### Our Newest Partner

## Think Multi-Tool

### HOPE HAVEN

As our newest primary Community Care Partner, we thought it might be helpful to share a bit about it.

Hope Haven is a place in Charlotte where adults coming out of a substance abuse program can go to live and learn life skills, taking another step towards independence.

The organization provides support services to address barriers these individuals encounter when seeking employment which can include chronic homelessness, limited vocational skills and gaps in education.

You may not be aware that Charlotte is ranked, for cities our size, as one

of the lowest for access to affordable housing, especially transitional housing, which this population desperately needs to get back on its feet.

Not only is Hope Haven unique for people in need of a place to live while they gain greater independence, it has the necessary certifications, licenses and services to create a therapeutic community.

You may think of “rehabilitation” as returning to a productive lifestyle a person once knew and lost. But there are many people in need of “habilitation,” learning to live a healthy and productive life for the first time.

Hope Haven is the rare, therapeutic living space and community that offers what is needed for this very process to occur.

As a church, we are focused on the **Family Program** of this organization which allows residents to consistently receive crucial family therapy, as well as parenting classes. And Hope Haven is certified to facilitate family reunification.

We want to provide consistent encouragement and support for these single moms and dads as they continue with the hard work of improving their lives while parenting their children.

**Our love, knowledge and faith are the rare gifts that we share in abundance.**

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Providence Road church of Christ is honored and blessed to work with these Community Care Partners

involve is a publication of the Providence Road church of Christ intended to encourage you to consider being involved with us and our Community Care Partners to make a real difference in our City and, more importantly, God's Kingdom.

LaCinda Benson editor

gary hixson designer

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All quoted Scripture is from the New International Version (NIV) unless noted otherwise.

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# Hope Haven

a place for blessing families

## A Brief Overview

For over forty years in Charlotte this organization has provided transitional housing and critical program elements for individuals coming from a treatment program for addiction.

Many of the residents have experienced homelessness, all live below the poverty line and all are in need of a living environment that is encouraging and therapeutic.

The program is unique in that it is licensed for many specialty services and creates a “person-centric plan” for each of its residents.

Interestingly, the community itself is an intentional part of the program. During their two years in the program, residents learn healthier behaviors, obtain employment, secure housing and

### PR COORDINATORS

Duane and Joyce Sprowl  
[hopehaven@prcoc.org](mailto:hopehaven@prcoc.org)

### HOPE HAVEN'S LOCATION

3815 North Tryon  
 Charlotte 28206

### ONGOING OPPORTUNITIES Encouragement Events

Regularly scheduled events that lighten the parents' load and provide some fun and normalcy for their children.

The ongoing work of recovery and the pulling together of one's life to be able to provide support and housing for one's family is especially challenging for this population.

These families truly appreciate caring people who are willing to come along side and encourage them, as well as engage with their children to simply laugh and play.

### Future Activities

Hope Haven is a new primary Community Partner, and we're still learning more ways we can serve these families.

You can be a part of providing these struggling families with hope.

*Send us your ideas.*

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# Sunrise Seniors

## A Brief Invitation

Join us to bless this diverse group of friendly, welcoming and appreciative residents of this nearby senior residence.

*There are a number of ways you can encourage these seniors, including periodic visits.*

We have developed long-standing relationships here by visiting regularly and providing brief worship services every Sunday morning bringing encouragement they need each week.

Sunday mornings at 10:05am to greet the residents prior to worship.

You could help by leading a prayer, guiding communion or sharing a short lesson. Music is a big encouragement to the residents – *talent not required, just heartfelt praise.* Song sheets are provided per the volunteer's request.

### Bible Studies

A few residents have requested a Bible Study. This could be accomplished by coming together to provide a weekly blessing in the Word.

### Special Event Celebrations

Small gathering to commemorate Veterans' Day or other holidays. *Any show of interest and attention is very much appreciated.*

### Monthly Card Ministry

We provide home-made cards each month for their Activities Coordinator to distribute to every resident *whenever they need it the most.*

### PR COORDINATOR

Dan Arlen  
[sunrise@prcoc.org](mailto:sunrise@prcoc.org)

### LOCATION

5114 Providence Road  
Charlotte 28226  
*very near PR*

### ONGOING

### OPPORTUNITIES Sunday Worship with the Residents

Come sit with the residents during a brief time of worship. There is ample visiting before and after which means so much to these folks. Simply arrive on



# Rebound

## for men



## A Brief Overview

Rebound is the men's program of the Charlotte Rescue Mission and is one of the longest-operating residential alcohol & drug dependency treatment programs in North Carolina. **This highly effective therapeutic program has tiers of services based on the tenure and progress of each resident.**

In addition to an extended-stay residency for employed program graduates, Rebound will soon be expanding its transitional housing for program graduates working to stabilize their lives.

## THEIR MISSION

**To minister the Good News of Christianity to individuals caught in the crisis of poverty, hopelessness, and addictions by meeting their spiritual, physical, and emotional needs.**

This is a residential Christian-based program that is providing the elements and support for an individual to turn his life around by God's grace. It is unique in that it offers the possibility of long-term treatment in an encouraging environment where many of the men with significantly limited resources can thrive.

## PR COORDINATORS

Ed and Jeanna Allstun  
[rebound@prcoc.org](mailto:rebound@prcoc.org)

## REBOUND'S LOCATION

907 West First Street  
Charlotte 28202

## ONGOING OPPORTUNITIES

### Preparing & Serving Dinner Monthly

On the second Sunday of every month, we prepare and serve the dinner meal. Kitchen volunteers arrive by 3:00pm to cook or 4:45pm to serve. Dinner is served at 5:00pm and the work is finished within an hour.

When Covid restrictions are lifted, we will once again be able to sit & eat with the men, encouraging them in their spiritual walk; we also recognize those having a birthday each month.

**These few minutes of encouragement mean a lot to these men.**

## GED Tutors

Supporting online work with some basic tutoring, especially in Math & Science, along with personal encouragement.

## Chapel Service

The fourth Sunday of each month we host a worship service for the men in the afternoon.

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# The Roll of Dice

PR+Charlotte Rescue Mission

A real **Rebound** story

TRUE STORY

Growing up with an alcoholic father, Dice's childhood was unstable. After his family immigrated to the U.S., they moved around frequently as his father's alcoholism burned bridges in each new community they lived in. At age 17, Dice started drinking himself.

Over the next three decades, Dice's addiction grew. He would periodically take a break from drinking but repeatedly found himself being sucked back in. He isolated from friends and family to hide the extent of the disease. "It didn't feel good any more," he says. "It just made everything worse. I was tired."

Dice had a friend who had graduated from **Rebound**, the men's program, and recommended it to him. Seeing the change in his friend's life, Dice decided to give the program a try for himself.

During the 120-day program, he learned he had been suffering from depression which triggered his urge to drink. His counselor helped him understand the disease of addiction, and his Alcoholics Anonymous classes taught him how to live a life of sobriety in community.

Since graduating from **Rebound** in August, Dice has joined the K.E.Y. (Keep Educating Yourself) program, where he'll live in their transitional housing while taking college classes. He's studying computer-integrated machinery, and in his first semester he earned a 4.0.

"I wish I knew about this place a long time ago," Dice says. "It's a special place, and I know it works."

No, this is not a  
photo of Dice.

And, no, Dice is not  
his real name.

This story, however,  
is totally true.



# Doves Nest for women

## A Brief Overview

Dove's Nest is the Charlotte Rescue Mission program tailored to the needs of women struggling with addiction.

Too often a woman has to choose between getting help with her addiction or keeping her children. **This program is one of a very few in the country that also has accommodations for mothers with young children (3-9 years old).**

Additionally, the program will soon be expanding its transitional housing for program graduates who are employed.

### THEIR MISSION

**To minister the Good News of Christianity to individuals caught in the crisis of poverty, hopelessness, and addictions by meeting their spiritual, physical, and emotional needs.** This is a residential Christian-based program that is providing the elements and support for an individual to turn her life around by God's grace. It is unique in that it offers the possibility of long-term treatment in an encouraging environment where many of the women with significantly limited resources can thrive.

**PR COORDINATOR**  
Charlotte Gross  
[dovesnest@prcoc.org](mailto:dovesnest@prcoc.org)

**DOVE'S NEST'S LOCATION**  
2855 West Boulevard  
Charlotte 28208  
*near the airport*

**ONGOING OPPORTUNITIES**  
**Encouragement Events**  
We host events each month for the women and need volunteers. These events are designed to encourage each woman, and reflect God's love & care through us.

Events include cook-outs, water games in the summer, celebrations of New Years, Mothers' Day and other special times.

**Communion Awareness**  
A new opportunity: We've been asked to provide a communion service once a month (*likely Sunday nights*) to teach about the meaning and importance of communion, worship, fellowship, etc. 4 volunteers a month are needed to serve in this, rotating monthly.

continued on page 28





# A Slice of Grace

PR+Charlotte Rescue Mission

Dove's Nest comeback

TRUE STORY

At age 14, following in the footsteps of several family members, Grace started experimenting with drinking and drugs. At age 20, a back injury allowed her consistent access to pain pills that fueled her addiction even further.

She entered into a toxic relationship where both she and her husband drank and used regularly. Grace got pregnant and give birth to her daughter, Raven. Though she was able to temporarily stop using during the second half of her pregnancy, her addiction surfaced with a new vengeance after Raven was born, leading her to lose her long-standing job at a pizza parlor, after failing her drug test.

Without an income, she lost her car and her home, while her marriage also came to a painful end. Finally, Grace's husband was granted full custody of Raven. "That crushed me," Grace remembers. "I lost the one thing I could not afford to lose."

With nothing left, Grace decided to get help and came to **Dove's Nest** in 2018. "When I came here, I was so broken. I had completely turned away from God, but when I came here, something just clicked. This place is what brought me to God."

After graduating from **Dove's Nest**, Grace got a job at another pizza restaurant as a server, working toward getting custody of Raven – and in 2020, she was granted full custody of her daughter.

She was recently promoted to catering director of all of that pizza franchise's locations in Charlotte, and is saving toward purchasing a house.

"I try and never forget where I come from," Grace says. "When things get hard, I think about how far I've come and think, 'God brought you this far. He's not going to let go of you now.'"

No, this is not a photo of Grace.

And, no, Grace is not her real name.

This story, however, is totally true.



# Community Matters Cafe

## life skills program



### A Brief Overview

“Community Matters Cafe” is a thriving breakfast and lunch café that also serves as a great life and work skills training ground for interested and qualified men and women who have graduated from the Charlotte Rescue Mission programs.

Interested candidates are interviewed and selected to participate in a six month program that teaches various skills to increase these students’ performance in the workplace and in life.

When the student successfully completes the program, they “graduate” and move onto traditional employment.

They continue to be monitored and encouraged as they become fully integrated in the working community.

**PR COORDINATORS**  
Jay and Ellyn Sergio  
[cmcafe@prcoc.org](mailto:cmcafe@prcoc.org)

**COMMUNITY MATTERS CAFE’S LOCATION**  
821 West First Street  
Charlotte 28202  
*across from the Panther’s Practice Field on South Cedar Street*


**ONGOING OPPORTUNITIES**  
**Support Community Matters Café**  
Whether it’s a cup of coffee on the covered patio, breakfast or lunch, stop by the café, enjoy and encourage all Life Skills Program students. *Also, there’s a private meeting room that can be reserved.*

**Eat & Meet Meals**  
While working in the Life Skills Program at the Café, many of the students live in a specially-designated wing of Hope Haven, another of PR’s Community Care Partners. They also meet at Hope Haven monthly on a Sunday afternoon.

*In the coming months, we want to provide a light dinner and fellowship time in the breezeway at Hope Haven prior to their team meeting.*

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# New Hope for Angel

PR+Charlotte Rescue Mission

Community Matters Cafe special

TRUE STORY

At age 38, Angel became pregnant for the first time, and soon after, she had a hysterectomy and learned that she had cancer.

"It was traumatizing," Angel remembers. "I questioned God. Why would He give me this beautiful child and then take me through the things you go through when you go through chemo and radiation?"

To cope with the trauma and stress, she turned to drugs and alcohol. Though she'd used both before recreationally, this was different – she quickly grew dependent on substances to deal with her pain. "I know now that I was powerless over drugs and alcohol," she says.

The social worker at the hospital where she received treatment recommended that she go to **Dove's Nest**, Charlotte Rescue Mission's women's campus. While many recovery programs are 28 days long, Angel knew that she needed a longer program to truly get back on her feet.

After graduating from **Dove's Nest**, Angel decided to participate in the Life Skills Program at **Community Matters Cafe**. When she graduates this summer, she's excited to be with her 3-year-old son, and wants to pursue being a peer support specialist for others in recovery.

"God never let go of my hand," Angel says. "I'm gaining so much through this program."

No, this is not a photo of Angel.

And, no, Angel is not her real name.

This story, however, is totally true.



# Lansdowne Elementary School

## A Brief Overview

Our church family has been in a partnership with this local elementary school for years. It is a school of over 600 students, and, as an IB World School\* its mission is holding high expectations for academic performance and character development for each student in a safe, caring environment that embraces cultural diversity.

Although close-by in a middle-class neighborhood, over half of its student population qualifies for free or reduced-cost lunches.

*We work closely with the teachers, parent organization and staff to support their important work of teaching and nurturing these young children.*

\* An IB World School holistically teaches that learning is a lifelong journey.

## PR COORDINATOR

Frank Crawford  
[lansdowne@prcoc.org](mailto:lansdowne@prcoc.org)

## LOCATION

6400 Prett Court  
Charlotte 28270

## ONGOING OPPORTUNITIES

**Lunch Buddies**  
Volunteers regularly meet informally with an individual student to befriend and demonstrate that they are valuable as a person.

Frequency depends on student need and adult availability.

## Tutors

Meeting weekly with individual students to casually help with their reading or math, based on need; predominately it is a role of encouragement (30 mins/week commitment).

North Star Reading Tutors work exclusively with 2nd and 3rd grade students (45 mins/week commitment). *Teachers provide all materials.*

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PR+community

The Rest of the Story



HOPE HAVEN

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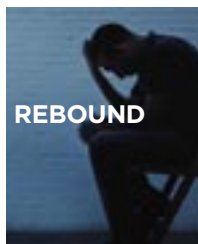
A Brief Overview

achieve upward economic mobility.

We serve within the Family Program of the Hope Haven therapeutic community. These individuals are provided a family counselor and supportive services to assist the family with their needs.

Frequently, outcomes of these efforts include family reunification and stable housing that avoids relapsing into addictive patterns of one or both parents.

This program is one of the few places where a single dad can be a part of the recovering community while having his child(ren) reside with him.



REBOUND

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ONGOING OPPORTUNITIES Bible Studies

The fifth Tuesday night of the month a group of PR men comes together to lead the residents in break-out groups in a study over provided scriptures common across all the groups.



DOVE'S NEST

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ONGOING OPPORTUNITIES

Women's & Children's Bible Studies

Volunteers are needed to teach, and care for the children of the women during Bible Study on Wednesdays 6:00 – 7:00 pm. Children group size varies up to 12, 3-9 year olds (2 volunteers needed).

INDIVIDUAL OPPORTUNITIES

Volunteer signs-up on Dove's Nest volunteer portal based on need.

Academic Tutors

Supporting residents working online for their GED with encouragement and some basic tutoring, with a consistent need for help with math.

Program Tutoring

Work with a small group of women regarding reading comprehension of program materials, and encouraging them to complete their assigned written tasks. Familiarity with addiction recovery information would be helpful but is not required.



COMMUNITY MATTERS CAFE

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ONGOING OPPORTUNITIES Participate in Graduations

We provide several items as part of a graduation gift for each graduating student.

One of those gifts is a study Bible.

You could encourage a graduate by highlighting your favorite scriptures, as well as by writing an encouraging message.



LANSDOWNE ELEMENTARY

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DATE SPECIFIC OPPORTUNITIES

Science Project Helpers In January, fifth graders do a special project, and adults are needed to come alongside to encourage groups of 4-5 students (requires 45 minutes/week for 6 weeks).

EOG Proctors Volunteers are needed to help teachers monitor End-Of-Grade testing (typically a 3-hour commitment).

Teacher Appreciation Breakfast We provide a breakfast for the teachers and staff as a thank you. Breakfast casseroles and individuals are needed to express appreciation and share encouragement for teachers and staff.

Campus Beautification Days Twice a year volunteers are needed to help with landscaping and other beautification projects on site. Typically held on a Saturday (takes a few hours).

School Supplies Drive Twice a year we ask for elementary school supplies for both students and the teachers to be able to distribute to those students whose families cannot afford the needed supplies (throughout the school year).

Angel Tree During December, individuals and groups sponsor select Lansdowne families that are struggling, providing Christmas gifts. Sizes and suggestions are provided.



The Challenge

Churchinertia

We began on page 4 saying “as a church, we want to follow Jesus by seeking to build relationships as we do life.”

In reality, following Jesus means getting up and leaving the routine, familiar and comfortable.

Jesus wants to take each of us on an adventure, sometimes taking the long way when we think a short cut would be better (and smarter).

Too often, we think we know what’s best, and ask Jesus to bless whatever we’re doing or planning to do. However James makes it clear (James 4:13+) that we can become over-confident about our master plans or even our small ones, which can cause us to miss what Jesus has in store for us.

There’s a reality one might call “churchinertia,” a lack of doing that leads to becoming undone, with no active following of Jesus whatsoever.

While attending “church” it can become too easy to fellowship with those we know, and miss seeing the many who are nearby, even on our path every day.

Jesus calls us on an amazing life walk, with our eyes open, our heads lifted and our hearts brimming with the love His Spirit is pouring into us (along with a lot of other great stuff). And he has asked each of us to walk around, as we work, play and live, giving it all away with abundant joy and hope.

The opportunities throughout the previous pages are just a few of the ways we can be an expression of Jesus’ love in Charlotte.

You are encouraged to pray and consider how you might avoid “church-inertia” and get closer on the heels of Jesus. Don’t doubt for a second that Jesus is doing his work in this City and far beyond.

The challenge is what will you allow him to do through and to you.

That may require new routines, involvements and relationships which are challenging, exciting and fruitful, and a blessing to you, as well as others.

On the next few pages you can see what doing nothing looks and feels like.



Opportunity  
without  
believers  
following  
Jesus



sounds  
like  
**crickets**



knock  
knock

...as we have **opportunity**,  
let us do good to all people...

Galatians 6:10

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